## Amendments to the Claims:

The following claims will replace all prior versions of the claims in this application (in the unlikely event that no claims follow herein, the previously pending claims will remain):

## 1-60. (Cancelled)

61. (New) A method of treating diabetes comprising the steps of administering to a subject suffering from a diabetic condition, a therapeutically effective amount of a compound represented by the following formula 1:

$$Z = \begin{bmatrix} A''_n & A''_n$$

in a physiologically acceptable carrier;

wherein Z is

n, m, q and r independently represent integers from zero to 4 provided that  $n + m \le 4$  and  $q + r \le 4$ ; p and s independently represent integers from zero to 5 provided that  $p + s \le 5$ ; a and b represent double bonds which may be present or absent; when present, the double bonds may



be in the E or Z configuration and, when absent, the resulting stereocenters may have the R-or S- configuration;

R and R' each independently represent a hydrogen atom; linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  falkyl; linear or branched  $C_2$ - $C_{20}$  alkenyl; - $CO_2$ Z'; - $CO_2$ R'''; - $NH_2$ ; - $NH_2$ ''; - $NR_2$ '''; -OH; -OR'''; - $ONR_2$ ''''; halogen atom; optionally substituted linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkyl; optionally substituted linear or branched  $C_2$ - $C_{20}$  alkenyl;

R'' independently represents a hydrogen atom; linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkyl; linear or branched  $C_2$ - $C_{20}$  alkenyl; - $CO_2Z'$ ; - $CO_2R'''$ ; - $NH_2$ ; -NHR'''; - $NR_2'''$ ; -OH; -OR'''; nalogen atom; optionally substituted linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkyl; optionally substituted linear or branched  $C_2$ - $C_{20}$  alkenyl;

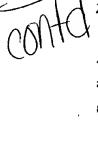
R''' independently represents a linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkyl; linear or branched  $C_2$ - $C_{20}$  alkenyl; or  $-(CH_2)_x$ -Ar, where x represents an integer from 1 to 6 and Ar represents aryl;

R''' independently represents a hydrogen atom; optionally substituted  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkyl; optionally substituted  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkoxy; optionally substituted  $C_2$ - $C_{20}$  alkenyl; optionally substituted  $C_0$ - $C_{10}$  aryl; or  $NR_2$ ''' represents a cyclic molety.

Z' represents a hydrogen atom or a pharmaceutically acceptable counter-ion;

A, A' and A" each independently represent a hydrogen atom;  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  acylamino;  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  acyloxy;  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkanoyl;  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkoxycarbonyl;  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkoxy;  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkylamino;  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkylamino;  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkylamino; carboxyl; cyano; halo; or hydroxy;

B, B' and B" each independently represent;  $C_2$ - $C_{20}$  alkenoyl; aroyl; aralkanoyl; nitro optionally substituted, linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkyl; or optionally substituted, linear or branched  $C_2$ - $C_{20}$  alkenyl;

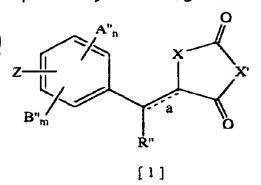


or A and B jointly, A' and B' jointly, or A" and B" jointly, independently represent a methylenedioxy or ethylenedioxy group; and

X and X' independently represent >NH, >NR'", -O-, or -S-.

- 62. (New) A method according to claim 61, wherein R' represents -CO<sub>2</sub>R'''; or -CONR<sub>2</sub>'''' wherein R''' represents hydrogen or methyl or at least one R'''' independently represents a hydrogen atom, methyl, or methoxy.
  - 63. (New) A method according to claim 60, wherein R' represents -CO<sub>2</sub>R''' wherein R''' represents hydrogen or methyl.
  - 64. (New) A method according to claim 61 wherein R' represents -CONR<sub>3</sub>''' wherein both R''' are the same and represent a hydrogen atom, methyl, or methoxy.
  - 65. (New) A method according to claim 61, wherein X is -S- and X' is >NH.
  - 66. (New) A method according to claim 62, wherein X is -S- and X' is >NH.
  - 67. (New) A method according to claim 63, wherein X is -S- and X' is >NH.
  - 68. (New) A method according to claim 64, wherein X is -S- and X' is >NH.
- 69. (New) A method according to claim 62, wherein a represents a single bond and b represents a double bond.
  - 70. (New) A method according to claim 62, wherein at least two A groups represent methoxy.
  - 71. (New) A method according to claim 62, wherein at least two A groups represent a hydrogen bond.

- 72. (New) A method according to claim 70, wherein at least two A groups represent a hydrogen bond.
- 73. (New) A method according to claim 61, wherein R' is carbomethoxy and A is methoxy.
- 74 (New) The method of claim 61 wherein said pharmaceutically acceptable counter ion is selected from sodium, potassium, calcium, magnesium, ammonium, tromethamine, or tetramethylammonium.
  - 75. (New) The method of claim 62 wherein said pharmaceutically acceptable counter ion is selected from sodium, potassium, calcium, magnesium, ammonium, tromethamine, or tetramethylammonium.
  - 76. (New). A method of treating diabetes comprising the steps of administering to a subject suffering from a diabetic condition, a therapeutically effective amount of a compound represented by the following formula 1:



in a physiologically acceptable carrier;

wherein Z is

H; A"; or B";

n, m, q and r independently represent integers from zero to 4 provided that  $n + m \le 4$  and  $q + r \le 4$ ; p and s independently represent integers from zero to 5 provided that  $p + s \le 5$ ; a and b represent double bonds which may be present or absent; when present, the double bonds may be in the E or Z configuration and, when absent, the resulting stereocenters may have the R-or S-configuration;

R and R' each independently represent a hydrogen atom; linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkyl; linear or branched  $C_2$ - $C_{20}$  alkenyl; - $CO_2Z'$ ; - $CO_2R'''$ ; - $NH_2$ ; -NHR'''; - $NR_2'''$ ; -OH; -OR'''; - $CONR_2''''$ ; halogen atom; optionally substituted linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkyl; optionally substituted linear or branched  $C_2$ - $C_{20}$  alkenyl;

R" independently represents a hydrogen atom; linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkyl; linear or branched  $C_2$ - $C_{20}$  alkenyl; - $CO_2Z'$ ; - $CO_2R'''$ ; - $NH_2$ ; -NHR'''; - $NR_2'''$ ; -OH; -OR'''; halogen atom; optionally substituted linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkyl; optionally substituted linear or branched  $C_2$ - $C_{20}$  alkenyl;

R''' independently represents a linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkyl; linear or branched  $C_2$ - $C_{20}$  alkenyl; or  $-(CH_2)_4$ -Ar, where x represents an integer from 1 to 6 and Ar represents aryl;

R''' independently represents a hydrogen atom; optionally substituted  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkyl; optionally substituted  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkoxy; optionally substituted  $C_2$ - $C_{20}$  alkenyl; optionally substituted  $C_0$ - $C_{10}$  aryl; or  $NR_2$ ''' represents a cyclic moiety.

Z' represents a hydrogen atom or a pharmaceunically acceptable counter-ion;

A, and A' each independently represent a hydrogen atom;  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  acylamino;  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  acyloxy;  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkanoyl;  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkoxycarbonyl;  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkoxy;  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkylamino;  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkylamino; carboxyl; cyano; halo; or hydroxy;

A" independently represent a hydrogen atom;  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  acylamino;  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  acyloxy;  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkanoyl;  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkoxycarbonyl;  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkylamino;  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkylcarboxylamino; carboxyl; cyano; or halo;

B, B' and B" each independently represent;  $C_2$ - $C_{20}$  alkenoyl; aroyl; aralkanoyl; nitro; optionally substituted, linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkyl; or optionally substituted, linear or branched  $C_2$ - $C_{20}$  alkenyl;

or A and B jointly, A' and B' jointly, or A" and B" jointly, independently represent a methylenedioxy or ethylenedioxy group; and

X and X' independently represent >NH, >NR''', -O-, or -S-.

- 77. (New) A method according to claim 76, wherein R' represents -CO<sub>2</sub>R'''; or -CONR<sub>2</sub>'''' wherein R''' represents hydrogen or methyl or at least one R''' independently represents a hydrogen atom, methyl, or methoxy.
- 78. (New) A method according to claim 76, wherein R' represents -CO₂R''' wherein R''' represents hydrogen or methyl.
- 79. (New) A method according to claim 76, wherein R' represents -CONR<sub>2</sub>''' wherein both R''' are the same and represent a hydrogen atom, methyl, or methoxy.
  - 80. (New) A method according to claim 76, wherein X is -S- and X' is >NH.

- 81. (New) A method according to claim 77, wherein X is -S- and X' is >NH.
- 82. (New) A method according to claim 78, wherein X is -S- and X' is >NH.
- 83. (New) A method according to claim 79, wherein X is -S- and X' is >NH.
- 84. (New) A method according to claim 77, wherein a represents a single bond and b represents a double bond.
- 85. (New) A method according to claim 77, wherein at least two A groups represent methoxy.
- 86. (New) A method according to claim 77, wherein at least two A groups represent a hydrogen bond.
- 87. (New) A method according to claim 85, wherein at least two A groups represent a hydrogen bond.
- 88. (New) A method according to claim 76, wherein R' is carbomethoxy and A is methoxy.
- 89. (New) The method of claim 76 wherein said pharmaceutically acceptable counter ion is selected from sodium, potassium, calcium, magnesium, ammonium, tromethamine, or tetramethylammonium.
- 90. (New) The method of claim 77 wherein said pharmaceutically acceptable counter ion is selected from sodium, potassium, calcium, magnesium, ammonium, tromethamine, or tetramethylammonium.

91. (New) A method of treating diabetes comprising the steps of administering to a subject suffering from a diabetic condition, a therapeutically effective amount of a compound represented by the following formula 1:

$$Z = \begin{bmatrix} A^{n} & & & \\$$

in a physiologically acceptable carrier;

wherein Z is

n, m, q and r independently represent integers from zero to 4 provided that  $n + m \le 4$  and  $q + r \le 4$ ; p and s independently represent integers from zero to 5 provided that  $p + s \le 5$ ; a, b and c represent double bonds which may be present or absent; when present, the double bonds

may be in the E or Z configuration and, when absent, the resulting stereocenters may have the R- or S- configuration;

R independently represents a hydrogen atom; linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> alkyl; linear or branched C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> alkenyl; -CO<sub>2</sub>Z'; -CO<sub>2</sub>R'''; -NH<sub>2</sub>; -NHR'''; -NR<sub>2</sub>'''; -OH; -OR'''; -CONR<sub>2</sub>''''; halogen atom; optionally substituted linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> alkyl; optionally substituted linear or branched C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> alkenyl;

R' independently represents a hydrogen atom; linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkyl; linear or branched  $C_2$ - $C_{20}$  alkenyl; - $CO_2Z'$ ; - $CO_2R'''$ ; - $NH_2$ ; -NHR'''; - $NR_2'''$ ; -OR'''; - $CONR_2''''$ ; halogen atom; optionally substituted linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkyl; optionally substituted linear or branched  $C_2$ - $C_{20}$  alkenyl;

R" independently represents a hydrogen atom; linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkyl; linear or branched  $C_2$ - $C_{20}$  alkenyl; - $CO_2Z$ "; - $CO_2R$ "; - $NH_2$ ; - $NH_2$ "; - $NH_$ 

R''' independently represents a linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkyl; linear or branched  $C_2$ - $C_{20}$  alkenyl; or  $-(CH_2)_2$ -Ar, where x represents an integer from 1 to 6 and Ar represents aryl;

R''' independently represents a hydrogen atom; optionally substituted  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkyl; optionally substituted  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkoxy; optionally substituted  $C_2$ - $C_{20}$  alkenyl; optionally substituted  $C_6$ - $C_{10}$  aryl; or  $NR_2$ ''' represents a cyclic moiety.

Z' represents a hydrogen atom or a pharmaceutically acceptable counter-jon;

A, A' and A" each independently represent a hydrogen atom;  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  acylamino;  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  acyloxy;  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkanoyl;  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkoxycarbonyl;  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkylamino;  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkylamino; carboxyl; cyano; halo; or hydroxy;

B, B' and B" each independently represent;  $C_2$ - $C_{20}$  alkenoyl; aroyl; aralkanoyl; nitro; optionally substituted, linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkyl; or optionally substituted, linear or branched  $C_2$ - $C_{20}$  alkenyl;

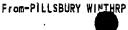
or A and B jointly, A' and B' jointly, or A" and B" jointly, independently represent a methylenedioxy or ethylenedioxy group; and

X and X' independently represent >NH, >NR'", -O-, or -S-.

- 92. (New) A method according to claim 91, wherein R' represents -CO<sub>2</sub>R'''; or -CONR<sub>2</sub>''' wherein R''' represents hydrogen or methyl or at least one R''' independently represents a hydrogen atom, methyl, or methoxy.
- 93. (New) A method according to claim 91, wherein R' represents -CO<sub>2</sub>R''' wherein R''' represents hydrogen or methyl.
- 94. (New) A method according to claim 91, wherein R' represents -CONR<sub>2</sub>'''' wherein both R'''' are the same and represent a hydrogen atom, methyl, or methoxy.
- 95. (New) A method according to claim 91, wherein X is -S- and X' is >NH.
- 96. (New) A method according to claim 92, wherein X is -S- and X' is >NH.
- 97. (New) A method according to claim 93, wherein X is -S- and X' is >NH.
- 98. (New) A method according to claim 94, wherein X is -S- and X' is >NH.
- 99. (New) A method according to claim 92, wherein a represents a single bond and b represents a double bond.

- 100. (New) A method according to claim 92, wherein at least two A groups represent methoxy.
- 101. (New) A method according to claim 92, wherein at least two A groups represent a hydrogen bond.
- 102. (New) A method according to claim 100, wherein at least two A groups represent a hydrogen bond.
- 103. (New) A method according to claim 91, wherein R' is carbomethoxy and A is methoxy.
- 104. (New) The method of claim 91 wherein said pharmaceutically acceptable counter ion is selected from sodium, potassium, calcium, magnesium, ammonium, tromethamine, or tetramethylammonium.
- 105. (New) The method of claim 92 wherein said pharmaceutically acceptable counter ion is selected from sodium, potassium, calcium, magnesium, ammonium, tromethamine, or tetramethylammonium.
- 106. (New) A method of treating diabetes comprising the steps of administering to a subject suffering from a diabetic condition, a therapeutically effective amount of a compound represented by the following formula 1:

in a physiologically acceptable carrier;



wherein Z is

n, m, q and r independently represent integers from zero to 4 provided that  $n + m \le 4$  and  $q + r \le 4$ ; p and s independently represent integers from zero to 5 provided that  $p + s \le 5$ ; a and b represent double bonds which may be present or absent; when present, the double bonds may be in the E or Z configuration and, when absent, the resulting stereocenters may have the R-or S-configuration;

R and R' each independently represent a hydrogen atom; linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkyl; linear or branched  $C_2$ - $C_{20}$  alkenyl; - $CO_2Z'$ ; - $CO_2R'''$ ; - $NH_2$ ; -NHR'''; - $NR_2'''$ ; -OH; -OR'''; halogen atom; optionally substituted linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkyl; optionally substituted linear or branched  $C_2$ - $C_{20}$  alkenyl;

R" independently represents a hydrogen atom; linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkyl; linear or branched  $C_2$ - $C_{20}$  alkenyl; - $CO_2Z'$ ; - $CO_2R'''$ ; - $NH_2$ ; -NHR'''; - $NR_2'''$ ; -OH; -OR'''; nalogen atom; optionally substituted linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkyl; optionally substituted linear or branched  $C_2$ - $C_{20}$  alkenyl;

R''' independently represents a linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkyl; linear or branched  $C_2$ - $C_{20}$  alkenyl; or  $-(CH_2)_x$ -Ar, where x represents an integer from 1 to 6 and Ar represents aryl;

Z' represents a hydrogen atom or a pharmaceutically acceptable counter-ion;

A, A' and A" each independently represent a hydrogen atom;  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  acylamino;  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  acyloxy;  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkanoyl;  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkoxycarbonyl;  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkoxy;  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkylamino;  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkylamino; carboxyl; cyano; halo; or hydroxy;

B, B' and B" each independently represent;  $C_2$ - $C_{20}$  alkenoyl; aroyl; aralkanoyl; nitro; optionally substituted, linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkyl; or optionally substituted, linear or branched  $C_2$ - $C_{20}$  alkenyl;

or A and B jointly, A' and B' jointly, or A" and B" jointly, independently represent a methylenedioxy or ethylenedioxy group; and

X and X' independently represent >NH, >NR'", -O-, or -S-.

107. (New) A method according to claim 106, wherein R' represents -CO<sub>2</sub>R''' wherein R''' represents hydrogen or methyl.

- 108. (New) A method according to claim 106, wherein X is -S- and X' is >NH.
- 109. (New) A method according to claim 107, wherein X is -S- and X' is >NH.
- 110. (New). A method of treating diabetes comprising the steps of administering to a subject suffering from a diabetic condition, a therapeutically effective amount of a compound represented by the following formula 1:

$$Z = \begin{bmatrix} A^{n} & A^{n} \\ B^{n} & A^{n} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$A^{n} = A^{n}$$

$$A^{n$$

in a physiologically acceptable carrier;

wherein Z is

H; A"; or B";

n, m, q and r independently represent integers from zero to 4 provided that  $n + m \le 4$  and  $q + r \le 4$ ; p and s independently represent integers from zero to 5 provided that  $p + s \le 5$ ; a and b represent double bonds which may be present or absent; when present, the double bonds may be in the E or Z configuration and, when absent, the resulting stereocenters may have the R-or S-configuration;

R and R' each independently represent a hydrogen atom; linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkyl; linear or branched  $C_2$ - $C_{20}$  alkenyl; - $CO_2Z'$ ; - $CO_2R'''$ ; - $NH_2$ ; - $NH_2$ ''; - $NR_2$ '''; - $OH_1$ ; -OR''';

halogen atom; optionally substituted linear or branched C1-C20 alkyl; optionally substituted linear or branched C2-C20 alkenyl;

R" independently represents a hydrogen atom; linear or branched C1-C20 alkyl; linear or branched  $C_2$ - $C_{20}$  alkenyl; - $CO_2Z'$ ; - $CO_2R'''$ ; - $NH_2$ ; -NHR'''; - $NR_2'''$ ; -OH; -OR'''; halogen atom; optionally substituted linear or branched C1-C20 alkyl; optionally substituted linear or branched C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> alkenyl;

R''' independently represents a linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkyl; linear or branched  $C_2$ - $C_{20}$ alkenyl; or -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>x</sub>-Ar, where x represents an integer from 1 to 6 and Ar represents aryl;

Z' represents a hydrogen atom or a pharmaceutically acceptable counter-ion;

A, and A' each independently represent a hydrogen atom;  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  acylamino;  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  acyloxy;  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkanoyl;  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkoxycarbonyl;  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkoxy;  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkylamino;  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$ alkylcarboxylamino; carboxyl; cyano; halo; or hydroxy;

A" independently represent a hydrogen atom; C1-C20 acylamino; C1-C20 acyloxy; C1-C20 alkanoyl; C1-C20 alkoxycarbonyl; C1-C20 alkylamino; C1-C20 alkylcarboxylamino; carboxyl; cyano; or halo;

B, B' and B" each independently represent; C2-C20 alkenoyl; aroyl; aralkanoyl; nitro; optionally substituted, linear or branched C1-C20 alkyl; or optionally substituted, linear or branched  $C_2$ - $C_{20}$  alkenyl;



or A and B jointly, A' and B' jointly, or A" and B" jointly, independently represent a methylenedioxy or ethylenedioxy group; and

X and X' independently represent >NH, >NR'", -O-, or -S-.

111. (New) A method of treating diabetes comprising the steps of administering to a subject suffering from a diabetic condition, a therapeutically effective amount of a compound represented by the following formula 1:

$$Z = \begin{bmatrix} A^{n} & A^{n} & A^{n} \\ B^{n} & A^{n} & A^{n} \\ B^{n} & A^{n} & A^{n} \\ A^{n} & A^{n}$$

in a physiologically acceptable carrier;

wherein Z is

or

n, m, q and r independently represent integers from zero to 4 provided that  $n + m \le 4$  and  $q + r \le 4$ ; p and s independently represent integers from zero to 5 provided that  $p + s \le 5$ , a, b and c represent double bonds which may be present or absent; when present, the double bonds may be in the E or Z configuration and, when absent, the resulting stereocenters may have the R- or S- configuration;

R independently represents a hydrogen atom; linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkyl; linear or branched  $C_2$ - $C_{20}$  alkenyl; - $CO_2Z'$ ; - $CO_2R'''$ ; - $NH_2$ ; - $NH_2$ ''; - $NR_2'''$ ; -OH; -OR'''; halogen atom; optionally substituted linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkyl; optionally substituted linear or branched  $C_2$ - $C_{20}$  alkenyl;

R' independently represents a hydrogen atom; linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkyl; linear or branched  $C_2$ - $C_{20}$  alkenyl; - $CO_2Z'$ ; - $CO_2R'''$ ; - $NH_2$ ; - $NH_2$ ''; - $NR_2'''$ ; -OR'''; - $CONR_2''''$ ; halogen atom; optionally substituted linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkyl; optionally substituted linear or branched  $C_2$ - $C_{30}$  alkenyl;

R'' independently represents a hydrogen atom; linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkyl; linear or branched  $C_2$ - $C_{20}$  alkenyl; - $CO_2Z'$ ; - $CO_2R'''$ ; - $NH_2$ ; - $NH_2$ ''; - $NH_2$ '''; - $NH_2$ ''''; -NH

R''' independently represents a linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> alkyl; linear or branched C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> alkenyl; or -(CH<sub>2</sub>),-Ar, where x represents an integer from 1 to 6 and Ar represents aryl;

Z' represents a hydrogen atom or a pharmaceutically acceptable counter-ion;

A, A' and A'' each independently represent a hydrogen atom;  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  acylamino;  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$ acyloxy;  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkanoyl;  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkoxycarbonyl;  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkoxy;  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkylamino;  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$ alkylcarboxylamino; carboxyl; cyano; halo; or hydroxy;

B, B' and B' each independently represent;  $C_2$ - $C_{20}$  alkenoyl; aroyl; aralkanoyl; nitro; optionally substituted, linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> alkyl; or optionally substituted, linear or branched C2-C20 alkenyl;

or A and B jointly, A' and B' jointly, or A" and B" jointly, independently represent a methylenedioxy or ethylenedioxy group; and

X and X' independently represent >NH, >NR'", -O-, or -S-.

- (New) A method of treating diabetes comprising the steps of administering to a 112. subject suffering from a diabetic condition, a therapeutically effective amount of 3-(3,5dimethoxyphenyl)-2-{4-[4-(2,4-dioxothiazolidin-5-ylmethyl)-phenoxy]-phenyl}-acrylic acid in a physiologically acceptable carrier.
- (New) A method of treating diabetes comprising the steps of administering to a subject suffering from a diabetic condition, a therapeutically effective amount of 3-(3,5dimethoxy-phenyl)-2-{4-[4-(2,4-dioxo-thiazolidin-5-ylmethyl)-phenoxy]-phenyl}-actylamide in a physiologically acceptable carrier.

Bond

114. (New) A method of treating diabetes comprising the steps of administering to a subject suffering from a diabetic condition, a therapeutically effective amount of 5-(4-(4-(1-carbomethoxy-2-)3,5-dimethoxy phenyl) ethenyl)-phenoxy)-benzyl)-2,4-thiazolidinedione in a physiologically acceptable carrier.